IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Canceled). A method comprising:

disabling an operation of a wireless device that fails to communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol; and

sending a short-range wireless signal from said wireless device to said base station,

~~The method of claim 2~~ wherein sending a short-range wireless signal includes sending a Bluetooth protocol signal.

Claims 4-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Canceled). A portable wireless device comprising:

a processor;

a wireless receiver;

and a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing instructions that enable the processor to disable an operation of a wireless device that fails to communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol;

wherein said receiver receives a short-range wireless signal; and

disabling an operation of a wireless device that fails to communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol; and

~~The device of claim 2~~ wherein said receiver is a Bluetooth protocol transceiver.

Claims 14- 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Canceled). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

send a wireless signal from a portable device to a base station;

disable an operation of the device that fails to communicate with a base station over a range limited wireless protocol;

receive a short-range wireless signal; and

~~The article of claim 21 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to~~ receive a Bluetooth protocol signal.

Claims 23-29 (Canceled).

30 (New). A method comprising:

sending a wireless signal to a wireless device;

determining whether the wireless device transmits any wireless transmission responsive to said signal; and

if no wireless transmission is received from said wireless device in response to said wireless signal, disabling an operation of said wireless device.

31 (New). The method of claim 30 wherein sending a wireless signal includes sending a range limited wireless protocol signal.

32 (New). The method of claim 31 wherein sending a wireless signal includes sending a Bluetooth protocol signal.

33 (New). The method of claim 30 including rendering said wireless device inoperative if no wireless response is received from said wireless device.

34 (New). A non-transitory computer readable medium storing instructions executed by a computer to:

send a wireless signal to a wireless device;

determine whether the wireless device transmits any wireless transmission responsive to said signal; and

if no wireless transmission is received from said wireless device in response to said wireless signal, disabling an operation of said wireless device.

35 (New). The medium of claim 34 further storing instructions to send a range limited wireless protocol signal.

36 (New). The medium of claim 35 further storing instructions to send a Bluetooth protocol signal.

37 (New). The medium of claim 34 further storing instructions to render said wireless device inoperative if no wireless response is received from said wireless device.

38 (New). An apparatus comprising:

a wireless transmitter to transmit a wireless signal to a wireless device; and

a processor coupled to said transmitter to determine whether the wireless device transmits any wireless transmission responsive to said signal and if no wireless transmission is received from said wireless device in response to said wireless signal, said processor to disable an operation of said wireless device.

39 (New). The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said transmitter is a range limited wireless protocol transmitter.

40 (New). The apparatus of claim 39 wherein said transmitter is a Bluetooth protocol transmitter.

41 (New). The apparatus of claim 38, said apparatus to render said wireless device inoperative if no wireless response is received from said wireless device.